

four thousand years have trembled." To him was entrusted the leadership of God's chosen people. He was the founder of their religion and in this holy office gave to mankind the greatest gift that ever blessed the race until the Babe of Bethlehem came to brighten a blighted world. Moses is the finest figure of patriotism and faith in Jewish history. He was a learned man and in favor with Egyptian royalty; he possibly might have won a place of renown in the Egyptian kingdom. His patriotic heart sacrificed all to cleave to his own people and to secure their freedom. What a splendid example of courage we find here. We are familiar with the trials and discouragements Moses encountered in leading the Children of Israel out of bondage. We recall the hardness of heart the Hebrews displayed, their faithlessness and their unfriendly treatment of their noble leader. Yet thruout Moses manifested the most sublime faith, a faith that never wavered in the face of threatening dangers and when surrounded by the gloom of a guilty people. When their trust in the Father failed, from his own unfaltering soul Moses spoke words fraught with comfort, "He will not fail thee nor forsake thee." Doubtless, too, during these dark hours were born the words of sweetness and strength found in the ninetieth Psalm.

No man ever was more unconscious of his own greatness. He was meek in all that the word implies.

Did ever saint dwell in more secret communion with God than Moses dwelt? We read that "he drew near where God was" and that he conversed with God "face to face as to a friend." He even dared implore God for a vision of His glory, and his prayer was answered. Rarely have souls dwelt on the mountain tops of prayer as Moses did. His very countenance was glorified with the "light that never was on land or sea." He stood enrapt, God himself being with him and beneath his feet "as it were a paved work of sapphire and the very heaven for clearness." Years afterwards Moses was chosen from among the Redeemed of heaven to appear in glory with the transfigured Christ.

The death of Moses carries with it such pathos that it adds indescribable charm to his lovely life. From a human standpoint it seems sad that Moses departed just when, after countless conflicts, the Israelites were about to enter the Promised Land victoriously. The great leader himself should have guided the triumphal entry we think. But there was reserved for Moses an entrance into a land of fadeless joy and perfect peace. There is something singularly beautiful in the fact that Moses was called away "When his eye was not dim nor his natural force abated." Picture the aged, vigorous saint upon Mount Pisgah, a land flowing with milk and honey delighting his eye. Music from a country in comparison with which the region nestled at the foot of Mt. Pisgah sinks away in utter insignificance, is breaking upon his ears. The splendor of Heaven steals into

his soul; earth recedes and he dies by the kiss of God. As often in his life, so in death, he is far away from the world, alone with God. There is a beautiful lesson to be learned from the hidden sepulcher of Moses, a lesson brought out in that inimitable poem, "The Burial of Moses." We cannot but repeat the lines inspired by the poetic burial of the divine hero.

"God hath his mysteries of grace,
Ways that we cannot tell;
He hides them deep like the hidden sleep,
Of him he loved so well."

Michael Angelo left unfinished the statue of Moses which he had conceived but which even his inspired chisel could not carve from the snowy marble of Carrara. Any eulogy we might frame would at best be incomplete. The words of the blessed Book are most fitting a character so grand and true.

"And there hath not arisen a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face; in all the signs and the wonders, which the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh, and to all his servants, and to all his land; and in all the mighty hand and in all the great terror, which Moses wrought in the sight of all Israel."

EMILY BEATRICE GNAGEY.

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DAVID

Among the characters in the Old Testament there are many that attract us. Many have some characteristic that calls forth our admiration. But for a well rounded character that is to stand as a favorite of the Old Testament, I have no hesitancy in choosing David.

I admire him for his faithfulness. As a shepherd he was a faithful keeper of the flock. He risked his own life to kill the bear and the lion that came to devour the sheep. He is a striking example of the truth that faithfulness in small things prepares the way for greater things. We find faithfulness ruling him as he is prompted from shepherd to minstrel, and to armor bearer, and to warrior, and to captain over a thousand, and to captain of the king's body guard, and finally to king of Juda and of all Israel. Readiness to give his life if need be whenever duty or right demanded it characterized his whole life from his boyhood in the fields of Jesse to his death in the "city of David."

His loyalty was intense. He could not do too much for the Lord's anointed. As a youth he showed his loyalty by daring to face the giant Goliath who for forty times had defied the army of his king. When jealousy prompted the king to seek David's life he still was loyal to him. Twice when Saul was delivered into his hands David spared his life. And at last after Saul's death David mourned the death of the king and punished his murderer.

David was not without sin. He did things that "displeased the Lord," but how ready he was to confess his sin and to repent. When

Nathan reproved him of his great sin in the murder of Uriah the Hittite he answered, "I have sinned against the Lord." Without rebelling he reaped the reward of his sin thru many bitter years. God visited his sins upon him and he sang his praises for it.

His trust in the Lord was complete. At all times he sought and obeyed the direction of God. His Psalms show the confidence and the love he bore toward the Almighty.

David lived over one thousand years before Christ in the time of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" yet he loved his enemies. Twice, once early and once late in his life he was pursued and hunted by those who sought his life. In both cases his enemy owed much if not all to him and in both cases we find David anxious to spare their lives and to do them service. What could be more touching than to note the love of David as shown in his lamentation for his wayward son Absalom. "O my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son."

Truly this was "a man after God's own heart."

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JOSEPH

In Old Testament History are many characters that gleam forth as beacon lights to all of those who are seeking a higher and better life.

Just which one of these is my favorite is difficult for me to say, but for the sake of the symposium I have chosen Joseph. I do this because I feel that the study of his life has had a greater influence over my life than any of the others.

I do not forget the warriors, prophets, judges, and kings with the wonderful account of their lives that has been handed down thru ages with a charm and fascination that has made them the familiar possession of both old and young. Among these are wonderful characters. Men who verily heard the voice of God, while others saw him face to face. But this very fact creates a gulf between us and them. We do not consider them as belonging to the common people. Yet not withstanding the blessed privilege that was theirs we frequently find them doing things that were quite contrary to our code of ethics and morality.

Not so with Joseph, his life was above criticism, and we consider him as a common man, a man who worked and sympathized with the common people. Yet we cannot deny the manifestations of God's own self working in and thru him thruout his entire life.

If it be true that thought determines action and actions determine character, then I think it is not putting it too strongly to say that the story of Joseph has played no small part in shaping the lives and determining the destinies of men. His was an exemplary life, and no place in sacred story do we find one uncommendable act record against him.

The story of Joseph is one of the first Bi-